

## Arts Queensland seeks input from arts community in developing a State plan

ARTS Queensland staff would like to hear from rural and regional residents who view art, make art, or participate in art and cultural experiences about their views for developing a State plan.

The Queensland Government wants to ensure everyone has opportunities in the arts and is developing a plan – the Arts for all Queenslanders strategy – to do just that. The Arts for all

Queenslanders strategy will be released at the end of 2013 by Ian Walker, Minister for Science, IT, Innovation and the Arts.

The strategy will share a five-year plan for arts and

culture in Queensland. Arts Queensland is consulting with Queensland communities about what this plan should and could include through workshops and an online survey. If you are interested in

participating in a regional workshop please contact Isaac Regional Council team leader Arts and Cultural Development on 1300 ISAACS (1300 41 22 27). More information can be found at [www.arts.qld.gov.au](http://www.arts.qld.gov.au).

# The Choirboys ready to rock

Group will perform at Moranbah

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AS A kid, Mark Gable was already a natural in showbiz.

Growing up, Gable suffered from dyslexia, and being at the bottom of his class made him depressed.

Discovering music was something he found easier than maths and English.

He would lie to cover up why he couldn't understand certain things, and would try to dodge situations and questions.

He admits his ability to lie about his dyslexia and depression was a perfect lesson for fame.

"Showbiz really is a lie," he said.

"Music was a good idea. I was terrible at maths and English. I thought guys in rock'n'roll bands got to pick up chicks easier, because I was really shy."

Gable no longer lies. He is upfront and honest. Any topic or opinion is open to discussion.

He found success as the lead singer of '80s rock band The Choirboys and these days he can be heard on the airwaves as a radio presenter.

The Choirboys are still performing, but not as much as they did. It is only special events they say yes to, keeping concerts to a



**RUN TO PARADISE:** The Choirboys will return to the stage when they perform at Moranbah's 4U2 Family Concert in September.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

So when they perform at the Moranbah 4U2 family concert on September 14, it will be a very special affair.

They will be sharing the stage with Shannon Noll at the Hornery Business Complex in Moranbah from 1.30 to 8.30pm.

"I say no to most things, because I am on radio on the central coast (of NSW) five days a week," he said. "However, we have been talking about more recording."

advantage of the fact that older artists like Rod Stewart and Black Sabbath are popular again.

"There is a big interest in older and established bands again.

"Most of us are half-dead men playing music," he joked.

Gable does admit that The Choirboys' hiatus from making music has in hindsight made it harder to continue on.

"We needed to be more

on writing and releasing music. He has never stopped, that is what we should have done," he said.

Gable said while he did try to avoid playing The Choirboys on his radio show, some tracks do sneak in, especially when he's sharing stories about particular gigs and memories.

One of his favourite gigs he went to was Peter, Paul and Mary, The Divinyls and The Angels in Manly in



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One of his most memorable performances was when they supported Midnight Oil in 1983.

"The Aussie acts then

Gable never thought that Run to Paradise would still be played in pubs and on the radio 30 years later and belted at the top of every party goer in the country.

He said it was a song that had become part of the Australian culture, like many other Aussie pub rock bands.

● Tickets for the concert are available at [oztix.com.au](http://oztix.com.au) or from the Hornery Business Complex in Moranbah. Gates open at